

SUBCHAPTER A—ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

PART 705—EMPLOYEE ETHICAL CONDUCT STANDARDS AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REGULATIONS

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 7301.

§ 705.101 Cross-reference to employee ethical conduct standards and financial disclosure regulations.

Employees of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) should refer to the executive branch-wide Standards of Ethical Conduct at 5 CFR part 2635, the OPIC regulation at 5 CFR 4301.101 which supplements the executive branch-wide standards, and the executive branch-wide financial disclosure regulation at 5 CFR part 2634.

[58 FR 33320, June 17, 1993]

PART 706—DISCLOSURE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

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AUTHORITY: The Freedom of Information Act, as amended, 5 U.S.C. 552; 5 U.S.C. 301; 22 U.S.C. 2199(d).

SOURCE: 53 FR 11993, Apr. 12, 1988, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—General

§ 706.11 Purpose and policy.

(a) This part is adopted pursuant to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552. It establishes the procedures governing public access to information contained in the files, documents and records of the Corporation. It also sets forth the procedures by which persons submitting written information to the Corporation may designate such information as exempt from disclosure under 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(4); and provides submitters of confidential business information with the right to be notified of a request for disclosure and to object to the disclosure of such information.

(b) This part reflects the policy of the Corporation to honor all requests for the disclosure of Corporation records provided that such disclosure does not adversely affect a legitimate public or private interest, is required and/or not prohibited by law or other authority, and would not impose an unreasonable burden on the Corporation. However, this part also reflects the view of the Corporation that the soundness and viability of many of its programs depend in large measure upon the willingness of applicants for Corporation assistance to provide full and reliable commercial, financial, technical and business information relating to the conduct of their affairs. Since the release of such information may imperil the competitive business position and credit standing of an applicant, it is essential that applicants be assured that confidential commercial or financial information which is submitted to the Corporation will not be disclosed to the public. This part is designed in part to give this assurance and thereby to encourage applicants to make complete disclosure of information bearing upon an application for OPIC assistance.

§ 706.12 Scope.

This part applies to all files, documents, records, and information obtained or produced by officers and employees of the Corporation in the

course of their official duties and/or under such officer or employee's control. Specific types of files, documents, records and items of information described herein are illustrative rather than exclusive. This part does not purport to describe or set forth every file, document, record or item of information which may or may not be disclosed or to incorporate every exemption from disclosure provided by law.

§ 706.13 Definitions.

(a) Except as may be otherwise provided in paragraph (b) of this section, all terms used in this part which are defined in the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552 shall have the same meaning.

(b)(1) *Act* means the "Freedom of Information Act," as amended, 5 U.S.C. 552.

(2) *Business information* means trade secrets or confidential or privileged commercial or financial information obtained from any person, including but not necessarily limited to such information as is contained in individual case files relating to such activities as insurance, loans and loan guarantees.

(3) *Business submitter* means any person or entity which provides business information to the Corporation.

(4) *Commercial use request* refers to a request from or on behalf of one who seeks information for a use or purpose that is related to the commerce, trade, or profit interests of the requester or the person on whose behalf the request is made. The term *commercial use requester* refers to any person making a commercial use request. In determining whether a requester properly belongs in this category, the Corporation will determine the use to which a requester will put the documents requested. Where the Corporation has reasonable cause to doubt the use to which a requester will put records sought, or where that use is not clear from the request itself, the Corporation may seek additional clarification before assigning the request to a specific category.

(5) *Direct costs* means those expenditures which the Corporation actually incurs in searching for and duplicating (and in the case of commercial requesters, reviewing) documents to respond

to a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

(6) *Duplication* refers to the process of making a copy of a document available to the FOIA requester. Copies will be ordinarily in the form of a photocopy of the original document.

(7) *Educational institution* refers to a preschool, a public or private elementary or secondary school, an institution of graduate higher education, an institution of vocational education, an institution of undergraduate higher education, an institution of professional education and an institution of vocational education, which operates a program or programs of scholarly research.

(8) *FOIA* means the Act.

(9) *Non-commercial scientific institution* refers to an institution that is not operated on a commercial basis and which is operated solely for the purpose of conducting scientific research, the results of which are not intended to promote any particular product or industry.

(10) *Representative of the news media* refers to any person actively gathering news for an entity that is organized and operated to publish or broadcast news to the public. The term "news" means information that is about current events or that would be of current interest to the public. Examples of news media entities include television or radio stations broadcasting to the public at large, and publishers of periodicals, but only in those instances when they can qualify as disseminators of "news" who make their products available for purchase or subscription by the general public. These examples are not intended to be all-inclusive. Moreover, as traditional methods of news delivery evolve (e.g., electronic dissemination of newspapers through telecommunications services), such alternative media would be included in this category. In the case of "freelance" journalists, they may be regarded as working for a news organization if they can demonstrate a solid basis for expecting publication through that organization, even though not actually employed by it. A publication contract would be the clearest proof, but the Corporation may also look to